

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 13, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MASON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 270.]

*The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the memorial of John H. Wheeler, late United States minister to Nicaragua, have had the same under consideration, and now report:*

The memorial sets forth that a party of American citizens, while crossing the Isthmus, *en route* from California to New York, were attacked by the natives at Virgin Bay, on the Lake of Nicaragua, on the 19th of October, 1855, some of whom were killed, and others wounded and robbed, while at the same time another party of hostile natives, strongly armed, were collected at San Carlos, on the other side of the lake. Thus hemmed in by hostile forces on both sides, and cut off from access to either ocean, they applied to the memorialist, then minister resident of the United States at that place, for protection and relief, which was promptly afforded; comfortable quarters procured and food supplied them, (two hundred and fifty in number,) for two days and nights.

It further appears, that under instructions from the Department of State, dated October 23, 1854, the memorialist was required to aid Joseph W. Fabens, Esq., a commissioner appointed for that purpose, in collecting information and taking testimony at San Juan, (Greytown,) in relation to the conduct of the persons who assumed political control over San Juan del Norte, and also with regard to the claims against our government on account of property destroyed by the late bombardment of that place by Captain Hollins, of the United States navy; that in the performance of this service he was engaged for more than two months away from his proper residence, and necessarily subjected to great inconvenience and additional expenses, amounting to the sum of \$273 98.

The memorialist further sets forth, that in the fall of 1856, by recall from the Department of State, he returned to the United States, as was then supposed, on a temporary visit. On that occasion, he left at the legation personal property to the value of over \$2,000; that this prop-

erty was destroyed by the allied forces of Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador, Costa Rica, and a part of Nicaragua.

The memorialist further represents, that on his departure for Central America he was instructed by the Department of State to draw upon London for his salary and the contingent expenses of the legation, and for that purpose a credit was opened for him with Messrs. Baring Brothers; that on his arrival in Nicaragua it was found impracticable to negotiate drafts on London; he had, therefore, to make an agent here, who drew on London, and for a time deposited in New York or Washington; that in Nicaragua these drafts could only be negotiated at the reduced value of the currency of the country, in which the peso or dollar was worth only eighty cents for each real dollar drawn for. The amount of his drafts, from October, 1854, to October, 1856, was \$14,706, and consequently the loss incurred by him was \$2,941 20.

These statements are fully supported by the testimony filed with the memorial, and may be summed up thus:

1. Reimbursement for amount expended in the maintenance and protection of distressed American citizens crossing the Isthmus.....	\$500 00
2. Amount of expenses incurred while taking testimony at San Juan del Norte.....	273 98
3. Value of property destroyed at Granada.....	2,000 00
4. Loss in exchanges.....	2,941 20
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	5,715 18
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The first item was embraced in a memorial presented to the Senate at the first session of the Thirty-fifth Congress, referred to this committee, fully examined, and a bill for the relief of the claimant to the amount claimed reported by them. That bill, for want of time, failed to be acted upon by the Senate. Upon a reëxamination, the committee fully concur in the views presented in that report, and therefore re-adopt the same as part of this report.

The other items above mentioned were not embraced in that memorial, for the reason, as stated by the memorialist, "that at the time that memorial was presented, in 1857, his accounts were in progress of settlement before the Treasury Department, and it was not until October, 1857, that they were finally closed;" and further, that he was not apprized of the value of his property destroyed at Granada in time for the last session of Congress.

As to the second item above presented, there can be no doubt that a public functionary charged with the performance of extra duties not pertaining to his office, and necessarily involving additional expenses, should be reimbursed to the amount of his expenses thus necessarily incurred.

Upon a similar principle, the third item should also be allowed; for it is obviously the duty of government to protect its public officers engaged in its service in the full and unrestrained enjoyment of

all their personal and property rights, at least against all acts of public force, while so engaged, and on failure to do so, to make good any losses he may have sustained.

With regard to the fourth and last item, the loss on exchange, in the opinion of the committee it would seem to be the duty of the government, in paying the salaries of its public agents, whether domestic or foreign, so to do it as to make such payment available to the officer to the amount of such salary at the place where he is stationed. It has been usual heretofore to observe this rule, and it would be manifestly unjust to Mr. Wheeler to depart from it in this instance.

The committee report a bill in accordance with the views above presented, and recommend its passage. They also report herewith the testimony by which the various items claimed are supported.

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A.

REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA,  
*Granada, December 24, 1855.*

I do hereby certify that I was a passenger on board the steamer Uncle Sam, from San Francisco to New York; that, on the 19th of October last, we were unprovokedly fired upon while at Virgin Bay by the forces of the then government of Nicaragua; that many were killed, many wounded, and all much alarmed. By unanimous consent, we prevailed upon the agent of the Accessory Transit Company to take us to Granada, where we placed ourselves under the care of the American minister, Colonel Wheeler, who received us as brothers, procured comfortable quarters, and supplied us two days and nights with every necessary. There were 250 of us; two died and were buried by the care of Colonel Wheeler, and two left in hospital, and one, a sailor, at his house, by whom he was fed. He also furnished clothes to those who had been robbed at Virgin Bay.

W. E. RUST.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, *Granada.*

Sworn to before me, this 24th December, 1855.

JNO. H. WHEELER.

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B.

REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA, *Granada:*

I, Jos. N. Scott, do hereby depose, that for some years I have been, and still am, the general agent of the Accessory Transit Company, on this Isthmus; that on the 19th of October last, the passengers on said route were unprovokedly fired upon by a strong force of the army of Nicaragua, at Virgin Bay, by which some were instantly killed, many wounded, and all much alarmed. The same party held a strong force at San Carlos, and had already fired on the company's steamer, and prevented her passing, by which a lady and child were instantly killed, and another wounded.

There seemed to be no escape for the unfortunate, unarmed passengers, as both points of the route were occupied by a strong force. They unanimously entreated me to take them to Granada, the residence of the American minister, Colonel John H. Wheeler, as it was impossible, from the number of passengers, and being out of provisions, for me to keep them any longer.

When we reached Granada the cholera broke out, and one (Nicholas Carrol, Esq., of California,) died while in the harbor, and many were sick. I sent for the minister, and he came on board the steamer and informed the passengers that, as American citizens, they should have every comfort as well as protection. He supplied them (in number two hundred and fifty) with comfortable quarters, and supplied them with food for two days and nights. Two died and were buried at Granada, and three were left, unable to move for wounds; one in Col. Wheeler's house. He freely gave his time, money, house, and clothes to his suffering countrymen, as some of them were robbed of everything by the enemy at Virgin Bay.

JOSEPH N. SCOTT, *Agent*.

Sworn and subscribed to, before me, this 13th December, 1855.

JNO. H. WHEELER.

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C.

[Duplicate.]

No. 19.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, February 5, 1856.*

SIR: Your dispatches to No. 39, inclusive, are received.

In relation to the expense which you allege, in your No. 34, you have incurred in the support of a large number of American citizens in distress, who placed themselves under your protection, I have to inform you that this department has no fund from which it is authorized to reimburse such expenditures. Although inconvenience and hardship may be the result of this inability to replace the funds which our diplomatic representatives often advance out of their private means for the relief of their distressed fellow-citizens in foreign countries, the department has no mode of relief at command, and can only suggest an application to Congress for such aid as the circumstances warrant.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY.

JOHN H. WHEELER, Esq., &c.

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E.

No. 4.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, October 23, 1853.*

SIR: Mr. J. W. Fabens, late United States commercial agent at San Juan de Nicaragua, is about to proceed to that place to collect

information and take testimony in relation to the conduct of the persons who assumed political control over it, and to the claims which it is understood some of that community intend to present, through other governments, to the United States, for property destroyed at the late bombardment, by Captain Hollins, of the United States navy. You are directed, while on your way to the seat of the Nicaraguan government, to stop at San Juan and aid Mr. Fabens in performing the duties assigned to him. These duties are particularly designated in his instructions. If there should be no local magistrate before whom depositions can be taken, you are requested to authenticate them in your character of minister of the United States.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY.

JOHN H. WHEELER, Esq., &c., &c.

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F.

REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA,  
*Granada, November 13, 1855.*

I do hereby state that, according to the orders of the State Department at Washington, of the 10th of October, 1854, I repaired in December, 1854, to Greytown, or San Juan del Norte, to take testimony of various persons as regards the claimants and amount of property destroyed by Captain Hollins, of the United States ship Cyane, as will more fully appear by reference to said orders; that the minister of the United States, Colonel John H. Wheeler, while on his way to the seat of the Nicaraguan government, stopped at San Juan and afforded me all and every aid I required in performing the duties assigned to me; that he remained with this sole intent at that place for more than two months, at which time and place living was very high and provisions very scarce.

J. W. FABENS.

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[Duplicate.]

G.

No. 32.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, September 27, 1856.*

SIR: The President deems it proper that you should return to the United States, and by his direction, I hereby notify you of his determination. You will, therefore, without delay, after receiving this communication, return home, and on reaching the United States you will apprise this department of that fact.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY.

JOHN H. WHEELER, Esq., &c., &c.

## H.

The undersigned, a native and citizen of North Carolina, states that he emigrated from New Orleans on the 11th January, 1856, with an intention of settling in Nicaragua, his profession being that of a planter, and pursuing the cultivation of cotton, sugar, tobacco, &c. He paid out his money for his passage and expenses, and was no way connected with any expedition or force on leaving the United States, and on his arrival in Nicaragua he studiously avoided taking any part in the conflicts which then disturbed the country.

From this cause, after some delay, it was found impracticable to carry out his intention to cultivate the soil, and becoming straightened for funds, he was compelled to earn his support by taking employment as steward in the hospital, under charge of the surgeon general. The army was pressed for men, and he was repeatedly urged to join the force under command of General Walker. This he utterly refused. On Dr. Ingraham, the surgeon general, threatening him, and ordering that he report himself to the commanding officer at New Granada, he was much perplexed and distressed. In his dilemma he applied to the American minister, then resident at Granada, for protection in the premises, which was efficiently and promptly afforded, much to the dissatisfaction of the surgeon general, who sought every mode of annoyance to me; so much that I had to go to the house of the American legation, where I remained during my stay in Nicaragua.

This is only one of the many instances of my own knowledge of the efficient and decided action of Colonel Wheeler in behalf of his fellow-citizens. On another occasion, to the knowledge of myself and many others, two young men from Wilmington, Delaware, had enlisted, whose passages had been paid, and expenses from New York to Nicaragua, applied for his aid through their friends. He procured their discharge, and sent them to their friends and parents.

On the attack of the allied forces of Guatemala, San Salvador, and Honduras, on the city of Granada, on the 12th October, 1856, the plunder, burning of houses, and murder of all Americans was proclaimed. Many fell victims; among them two preachers of the Gospel, a young child of Mr. Smith, of New York, Mr. Lawless, a merchant, and others. The legation house, over which the American flag waved, where the wives of Americans had fled for safety, was assaulted. The house, being strongly barricaded, resisted the attack, while a severe, active and destructive fire from a few of the Nicaraguan army was very fatal to the assailants. Had they succeeded in effecting an entrance, no age, sex, or condition could have escaped. The door was perforated with balls, and the flag riddled by their shots. Colonel Wheeler, though prostrated by sickness, was enabled to preserve quiet among his numerous guests, and discountenanced every offensive effort except in self-preservation. On his leaving Granada, his house was destroyed, all his furniture, stores, and library were burnt up, entailing a loss of more than two thousand dollars, to the knowledge of this affiant.



The health of Colonel Wheeler, by the diseases of this climate and exposure of his position, completely failed, and I was compelled to accompany him home, as he was unable to help himself; and on reaching the United States, in November, 1856, his life was only preserved by the skill of physicians and the most assiduous attention.

R. J. DARDEN.

This day came before me, Redmond Darden, well known to me, and made oath that the foregoing was true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

MOSES KELLY, *J. P.*

WASHINGTON CITY, *January 15, 1857.*

This certifies that I am well acquainted with R. J. Darden, the affiant to the foregoing statement, and believe him to be a man of veracity and honor.

JN. GRANGER, *Recorder.*

RECORDER'S OFFICE OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
*Interior Department, Washington City, January 16, 1858.*

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I.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,  
*January 18, 1858.*

The undersigned, long a practitioner of medicine in Philadelphia, and at present one of the professors in the Jefferson Medical College, would state that in the months of December, 1856, and January, 1857, I attended at the Ashland House, in this city, Colonel John H. Wheeler, then recently returned from Nicaragua, as United States minister to that country.

His case was one of complication of diseases, brought on by a residence in a tropical climate, and attended by a complete prostration of the nervous system, the consequence of exposure and excitement; the case was one of danger, and demanded all my care and skill. The disease finally concentrating in his right hand, he was forced to submit to the severe operation of amputation of one of the fingers of that hand, which I performed on the 18th January, 1857.

I have no hesitation in saying that his disease was consequent to his residence in Nicaragua; his suffering was very acute and dangerous; and his recovery, for a time, very precarious and protracted.

JOSEPH PANCOAST, *M. D.*

*Letter from the Secretary of State, report from the Fifth Auditor, and other testimony, relating to the memorial of John H. Wheeler, late minister to Nicaragua.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, May 7, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, submitting, in behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the memorial and accompanying documents of John H. Wheeler, Esq., late minister to Nicaragua, praying reimbursements for losses sustained and expenses incurred in the service of the government.

In relation to that part of Mr. Wheeler's memorial which refers to his protection and support of a large number of his countrymen, who were necessarily thrown upon his hospitality in consequence of the attack made upon them at Virgin Bay, while in transit from California to New York, I have to reply, that Mr. Wheeler reported these facts at the time of their occurrence to the department, as you will perceive by referring to Executive Document No. 68, 1st session, 34th Congress, Senate, pages 32, 33. No estimate of the expense which the care of 250 destitute persons imposed upon the minister has been submitted to the department. Under the peculiar circumstances of the country, the amount must have been very considerable. It was not within the power of this office, however highly it might appreciate the humanity and hospitality extended by the minister to his distressed and destitute countrymen, to reimburse the outlay involved thereby. He was therefore referred to Congress, *in the anticipation that no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining an appropriation for that object.*

In regard to the second item referred to in Mr. Wheeler's memorial, which embraces expenses incurred in taking testimony at San Juan del Norte, in relation to the alleged losses of persons by the bombardment of that place, I have the honor to communicate the copy of a dispatch from my predecessor to Mr. Wheeler, containing his views upon that subject. It is dated 5th December, 1855.

It is just to add, upon this point, that the information derived from the investigations of Messrs. Wheeler and Fabens *has been of much value to the government* in disclosing the exaggerated and fraudulent nature of many of the claims for indemnification presented by the inhabitants and other alleged sufferers from the bombardment of Greytown.

As the destruction of his furniture and effects, which forms another item of Mr. Wheeler's claim, occurred after his return from Nicaragua, and as there was not, at the time, any agent of the United States in Granada, the department has no official information respecting the nature and extent of those losses, other than that contained in his memorial and accompanying papers. When Mr. Wheeler left Granada, he did so under *circumstances which warranted him in supposing that his withdrawal was not necessarily permanent.* It is presumed that, under such an impression, all of the effects of his domestic establishment were left behind.



The last item claimed by Mr. Wheeler, viz: loss by exchange, will be referred to in a separate communication accompanying this.

Returning the memorial and documents, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. D. E. SICKLES,

*Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, May 13, 1858.*

SIR: In reply to that part of your letter of the 27th ultimo, respecting loss by exchange on the sale of the drafts of Mr. Wheeler, late minister resident to Nicaragua, I have to inform you that I caused inquiry to be made of the Comptroller of the Treasury, and beg leave to inclose a copy of his reply.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. D. E. SICKLES,

*Of the Committee on Foreign Relations, House of Representatives.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

*Comptroller's Office, May 11, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the reference to this office of letter of Hon. D. E. Sickles to the State Department, dated April 27, 1858, with accompanying memorial of John H. Wheeler, late minister to Nicaragua, in which he claims \$2,941 32, for loss by exchange, with request that I furnish you with a report upon so much of Mr. W.'s memorial as relates to his claim for loss by exchange.

On the 5th instant, the House of Representatives passed a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish copies of the papers on file in his department in relation to the claim of Mr. Wheeler, for losses by exchange on drafts for his salary, together with the grounds upon which said claim was disallowed by the Treasury Department.

A copy of this resolution was referred by the Secretary of the Treasury to this office for report, which report has just been prepared and transmitted to the Secretary this day.

Inasmuch as the report is full, and will doubtless be satisfactory, and as it will be in possession of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which Mr. Sickles is a member, it is suggested that a reference to it may be sufficient for Mr. Sickles's purposes, and thus the labor of copying it and the consequent delay be saved.

If, however, upon this explanation, you still desire a special report, I will, with pleasure, cause it to be prepared.

The letter of Mr. Sickles, and accompanying papers, are herewith returned.

Respectfully,

W. MEDILL, *Comptroller.*

Hon. JOHN APPLETON,

*Assistant Secretary of State.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Fifth Auditor's Office, May 24, 1858.*

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of this day, inquiring as to the action of this office upon Mr. Wheeler's account, as minister resident to Nicaragua, and the grounds of that action, came to hand this morning. There was no difficulty or uncertainty about Mr. Wheeler's accounts for salary or disbursements, made by him in the line of his duty as minister. All such accounts were properly vouched and allowed in this office as charged and claimed by Mr. Wheeler. The only item of his accounts that presented any difficulty was the charge for loss in exchange. The facts, as they appeared in this office in Mr. Wheeler's case, were these: Mr. Wheeler was authorized to draw upon "Baring Brothers," of London, for his salary, and, of course, to get his money, he was forced to sell his drafts in Nicaragua for the highest price he could get. Those drafts were nominally worth par in that country, and were not selling at a discount; but to enable him to sell his drafts at par, he was forced to take the currency of that country also at par. This currency was composed of two kinds; one kind was a coin passing currently in Nicaragua *called a dollar*, which contained thirty-three per cent. alloy and sixty-seven per cent. of pure silver, compared with the United States coin; and, consequently, a dollar of that currency was only worth, commercially, seventy-six cents. The other currency of that country consisted of United States ten cent pieces, eight of which was of greater intrinsic value than a local dollar of that country; and thus, by common consent, eight United States dimes passed for a dollar. It appeared that Mr. Wheeler sold his drafts at par, but to do so, was forced to and did take eight dimes or eighty cents United States coin for each dollar of his drafts, thus losing upon each dollar drawn for twenty cents. The government was bound to pay Mr. Wheeler, in Nicaragua, one hundred cents to the dollar, United States coin; but as the government sent no money to Nicaragua to pay his salary and expenses, he was forced to sell his drafts there, and take such money and at such price as he could get. If he had refused to take eight United States dimes to the dollar, he would have been forced to take a Nicaraguan dollar, which would only have been worth seventy-six cents, and thus his loss would have been twenty-four cents to the dollar.

Under those circumstances, this office decided that Mr. Wheeler, being a government agent, was bound to sell his drafts for the highest price he could get, and, therefore, he was bound to take eight dimes to the dollar, when he could do so. It appeared plain to this office that, if the government had paid to Mr. Wheeler, in Nicaragua, his salary in United States dollars, (either in gold or silver,) as the government was bound to do, that he would have saved thereby twenty cents on each dollar of his salary, which, under the circumstances, he was forced to and did lose; all of which was caused by drawing bills on London, instead of paying him in United States coin in Nicaragua.

This office could not regard this loss in any other light than as loss in exchange, not believing that, because, in *common parlance*, in that country, eight dimes was called a dollar, that it really was a dollar,

or that it was worth as much to Mr. Wheeler as ten dimes (his real due) would have been. Thus he was allowed twenty per cent. loss in exchange upon all his drafts sold in that country; but on drafts drawn and sold in the United States he was not allowed any loss. Thus you are answered as to what action this office took in Mr. Wheeler's case, and the principles upon which that action was based.

With great respect, I am your obedient servant,  
MURRAY McCONNEL,  
*Fifth Auditor.*

The COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*House of Representatives in Congress.*

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By a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed 5th May, 1858, "copies of the papers on file in the Treasury Department, in relation to the claim of J. H. Wheeler, late minister to Nicaragua, for losses charged to have been sustained by him by discounts upon drafts for his salary, together with the grounds upon which said claim was disallowed by the Treasury Department," were furnished by the First Comptroller of the Treasury, and published.—(Executive Document, No. 125.) On page 26 of said document is the following certificate:

"I do hereby certify, that during the absence of Mr. Wheeler from the United States at Nicaragua, as minister, under a general power of attorney, I transacted all his pecuniary matters in this country, such as collecting rents, debts, and his salary. That during the first year the drafts were drawn on Messrs. Baring Brothers, London; and subsequently, by instruction from the State Department, the place of payment was made at the Treasury Department. That under this power of attorney I did draw from the said bankers in London, and from the Treasury Department, the amount due Mr. Wheeler for his salary, and Mr. Wheeler from Nicaragua drew on me for the amounts as he required; that said drafts were sold by him in Nicaragua to different persons at different times; and from these persons and others I have always understood and believe that the currency of that country was eight dimes to the dollar, which was paid to Mr. Wheeler for said drafts.

"J. F. BROWN.

"WASHINGTON, *October 16, 1857.*"

"I further certify that Mr. Wheeler did commence drawing on me drafts as soon as he arrived in Central America, to wit: in December, 1854, and continued the same until he left that country in November, 1856.

"J. F. BROWN."

"NOTE.—It is represented to me that Mr. Wheeler *purchased property in Washington, where his family continued to reside*, to be paid for from his salary. That he appointed Mr. Brown his agent to draw the

same, and apply it as aforesaid, and in support of his family. It is also represented that Mr. Brown sold a portion at least of said drafts for *as high as eleven per cent. premium.*"

The note appended by the Comptroller is not a copy of any paper furnished by Mr. Brown, nor is it believed of any paper on file in the Comptroller's office. The resolution of the House called for "*copies of papers on file.*" The truth of this note, thus surreptitiously interpolated, may be judged from the following *affidavit* of Mr. Brown:

I, Joseph F. Brown, do hereby certify that the note appended to a certificate, dated 16th October, 1857, given by me, as printed in Executive Document No. 125, was never furnished directly or indirectly by me to the First Comptroller, or to any one else.

That to my own positive knowledge Mr. Wheeler at no time ever *purchased any property in Washington to be paid from his salary* as minister to Nicaragua; nor was I ever employed as his agent to apply his salary, as aforesaid, in any shape or form for such a purpose.

*That his family did not continue to reside in Washington* during his absence in Central America; but accompanied him when he left the United States, except one of his sons at school, who followed him in the spring after his departure in the fall.

That in the drafts which, as his agent, on London were drawn, *no premium was realized by me in the aggregate, but, on the contrary, a positive loss*; and that the averments in said note, appended to my statement, *are in every respect untrue.*

And I further certify, that at the end of each quarter Mr. Wheeler had overdrawn, and was in arrears to me, in his drafts drawn on me in Washington, while he was in Central America.

J. F. BROWN

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 28th May, 1858.

THOS. J. FISHER, *J. P.*

This proves the spirit by which the document was prepared by the First Comptroller, and the gross injustice done by it.

Hon. John B. Kerr, late chargé to Nicaragua, states (see page 8 of Doc. No. 125) that "the only currency of Nicaragua, during his official residence there, consisted of American dimes, *eight to the dollar*, and single and two franc pieces, *four to the dollar.*"

In a letter dated Baltimore, 11th July, 1857, to Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Kerr states:

"Let me know what claim you are making in regard to the difference of currency between the two countries, and your loss thereby. *In every thousand it was two hundred.* It will be explained in the papers filed by me."

General Joseph Lane, delegate in Congress from Oregon, states:

"In transit from Washington to Oregon, I have had occasion to pass by the Nicaragua transit route from San Juan del Norte to San

Juan del Sur, and found the currency of that republic universally paid and received to be eight dimes of United States coin to be equal to the dollar of the country.

“JOSEPH LANE.

“WASHINGTON CITY, May 28, 1858.”

*Certificates of M. E. Bradley and Thomas J. Van Dyke, of value of American dollar in Nicaragua.*

I do hereby certify that I resided in Nicaragua during the years 1855 and 1856, and acted often as the agent and private secretary of Mr. Wheeler, the American minister.

That the universal currency of the republic of Nicaragua is eight dimes to the dollar, and it is the custom to take them and receive them at that rate.

That a bill of exchange on London or New York commanded no premium, but was par only, in Nicaragua.

That in my transactions I had occasion to call on Mr. Wheeler for drafts, and negotiated with others for him, and on no occasion was any premium charged or paid.

THOMAS J. VAN DYKE.

PHILADELPHIA, March 19, 1857.

I do hereby certify, that the currency at Granada, Nicaragua, Central America, for the last five years, was eight dimes to the dollar, and that, although the government did within the last year enact that ten dimes should be the legal currency, yet among the people the usual custom was to take and receive eight dimes.

Witness my hand, this 19th March, 1857.

M. E. BRADLEY.

And I further certify that a bill of exchange on London or New York was at par only, and commanded no premium.

M. E. BRADLEY,

*Agent Republic Nicaragua, and was put in possession of the Transit Co. property as Q. M., when seized by Nicaraguan government.*

The statements are all made by gentlemen of observation and truth, who were on the ground. The statement furnished by Messrs. Eames and Bowlin, in Document 125, as to the currency of Venezuela and New Granada, are not pertinent to the point at issue, since neither of them were conversant with affairs in Nicaragua, or were even in the country, and should not weigh against the testimony of Mr. Kerr, General Lane, Mr. Van Dyke, and Mr. Bradley, who were in Nicaragua.







